

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 CU-02 /086 W
-----111666 051432Z /53

R 051120Z AUG 77

FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6517
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JOHANNESBURG 2055

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, SF
SUBJECT: SOWETO TENSION PERSISTS AS KRUGER THREATENS TO CLOSE
SCHOOLS

REF: JOHANNESBURG 2030

1. SUMMARY: SPORADIC VIOLENCE IN SOWETO CONTINUES TO KEEP
TOWNSHIP UNEASY AS POLICE AND BANTU EDUCATION OFFICIALS
ANNOUNCE PLAN TO CLOSE SCHOOLS IF STUDENTS CONTINUE BOYCOTTS.
END SUMMARY.

2. THE RUNNING SKIRMEISHES BETWEEN YOUTHS AND POLICE
THAT HAVE PLAGUED SOWETO FOR OVER A WEEK CONTINUE AS
POLICE RESPOND TO ATTACKS FROM STONE THROWING CLUSTERS OF
YOUNG PEOPLE. NO SERIOUS INJURIES REPORTED BUT POLICE
HAVE ARRESTED APPROXIMATELY 75 IN LAST 24 HOURS.

3. MINISTER OF JUSTICE KRUGER APPEARS PREPARED TO FOLLOW
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THROUGH THREAT TO CLOSE SCHOOLS IF STUDENTS CONTINUE BOYCOTT.
KRUGER ISSUED A MINISTERIAL STATEMENT SAYING AS OF MONDAY,
AUGUST 8, INSPECTORS WOULD VISIT SCHOOLS AND DECIDE WHICH
TO CLOSE, WITH SUBSEQUENT TRANSFER OF TEACHING STAFF TO OTHER
SCHOOLS (OR LOCALES).

4. COMMENT: PUSH HAS COME TO SHOVE WITH KRUGER'S THREAT

TO CLOSE DOWN SCHOOLS. SOME SERIOUS DECISIONS WILL HAVE TO
BE MADE BY THE BLACK COMMUNITY BETWEEN NOW AND MONDAY. ONE
FACTOR WHICH MAY INFLUENCE ITS DECISION WOULD BE WHETHER SCHOOLS
ARE CLOSED TEMPORARILY OR PERMANENTLY, WITH SOME TEACHERS
TRANSFERED TO THE HOMELANDS. AT THIS STAGE, IT IS HARD TO
IMAGINE THE HARD LINERS (SUCH AS THE SSRC) BACKING DOWN,
BUT PERHAPS SOME PARENTS WILL BE ENERGIZED TO TAKE COUNTER-
ACTION RATHER THAN HAVE THEIR CHILDREN IDLE.

JOHNSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, SCHOOLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decapton Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977JOHANN02055
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770281-0484
Format: TEL
From: JOHANNESBURG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770894/aaaadbcz.tel
Line Count: 71
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c1fc6f61-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 JOHANNESBURG 2030
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1700851
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOWETO TENSION PERSISTS AS KRUGER THREATENS TO CLOSE SCHOOLS
TAGS: PINS, SF
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c1fc6f61-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009